Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

developing a database of elements, <u>each of said elements having at least one element code representing a part of an image, each element code based on:</u>

<u>(a)</u>   <u>a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and</u>

<u>(b)</u>   <u>a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature;</u> ~~wherein said elements are predetermined portions of images~~ <u>wherein different combinations of the element codes form corresponding facial codes representing different facial images</u>.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein <u>the symbols in the elements codes</u> ~~said predetermined portions of images comprise: a~~ <u>are included in a</u> library of pictorial entities.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>1</u> ~~3~~, wherein <u>the facial features represented by the symbols in the element codes correspond to at least one of</u> ~~said predetermined portions of facial images comprise~~ eyes, noses, wrinkles, mouth, ears, hair, hairstyle, facial shape, chin, or facial hair.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein <u>the facial features represented by the symbols in the element codes correspond to at least one</u> of ~~said predetermined portions of facial images comprise~~ eyeglasses, jewelry, or head wear.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein <u>the plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature are specifically by one in</u> ~~said predetermined portions of images comprise:~~ a library of image qualifiers.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said library of image qualifiers comprises visual effects applied to an image.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said visual effects comprise enlarging, detracting, positioning, or coloring.

9.   (Original) A computer software product that includes a medium readable by a processor, the medium having thereon:

        an image information of a plurality of elements;

        a qualifier information of a plurality of spatial relationships between said plurality of elements; and

a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to connect at least one element to at least one spatial relationship, wherein said sequence of instructions includes, as an attribute, combining at least other element with at least one other spatial relationship with said at least one element and at least one spatial relationship.

10.   (Original) The computer software product of claim 9, wherein the sequence of instructions forms an image based on first element and a corresponding first spatial relationship.

11.   (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of sequences of instructions, said plurality of sequences of instructions including sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform the steps of:

receiving a predetermined selection of either an element from image information or a spatial relationship from qualifier information;

obtaining link information corresponding to a selected element or spatial relationship, wherein the link information includes a user's selection as an attribute of the link information;

displaying elements linked with a selected spatial relationship in sequence according to the user's selection using the link information, if an element is selected for browsing; and

displaying spatial relationships which describe elements linked with a selected spatial relationship in sequence according to the user's selection using the link information, if a spatial relationship is selected.

12.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the element codes further includes:

an image qualifier having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of a position of the facial feature in the facial image; and

a second code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the position of the facial feature in the facial image.

13.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the facial image code includes information indicative of a version number of a program used to perform one or more operations of the method.

14.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the facial image code includes letters corresponding to the at least one symbol and the first code factor.

15.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the facial image code includes non-alphanumeric characters substituted for visually confusing alphanumeric characters.

16.   (New) A method for encoding a digital representation of a face, comprising:

(a)   multiplying a facial code by a first code factor corresponding to a pictorial entity representing a facial feature, the first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature;

(b)   adding a value of a symbol corresponding to the pictorial entity to the facial code;

(c)   repeating (a) and (b) for one or more additional pictorial entities, each corresponding to a different facial feature;

(d)   combining results of (a) - (c) to form a facial code that corresponds to the digital representation of the face; and

(e)   storing the facial code in a database for subsequent retrieval.

17.   (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the pictorial entity symbol corresponds to one of the plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature and is less than said maximum value.

18.   (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising after (b):

identifying an additional symbol corresponding to the facial feature and related to

the pictorial entity;

multiplying the facial code by a second code factor corresponding to the

additional symbol, the second code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum

value of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the pictorial entity; and

adding a value corresponding to the additional symbol to the facial code.

19.   (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the additional symbol is an image

qualifier symbol indicating a position of the facial feature represented by the pictorial entity in

the digital representation of the face.